

Approved_{11/28/06}

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday July 25th 2006
ARC Calaveras
153 Bellview Street
San Andreas, CA

Board Members Present:

Gary Del Nero
Mary Dye
John Lundberg
Brad Putz
Anna Newman

Board Members Absent:

Hanna Kassis
Janine Lodato
Deirdre Wright
Ian Allen
Traci Trujillo
Fred Edmondson

Staff Present:

Kathy Barnes- Executive Director
Neil Fromm- Program Specialist II

Facilitators:

David Simerley
Chris Tarleton

Guests:

Karen Pekarcik- First 5 Calaveras
Steve Wilensky- Calaveras Board
Of Supervisors-District 2

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Gary Del Nero, Chairperson, at 6:09 p.m. Board and staff and audience introduced themselves

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 1/10/06, 3/28/06 and 6/13/06:

No action taken as there was not a quorum.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Presentation:

Peggy Cunningham, Program Director of the ARC of Amador/Calaveras described some of the activities of the program. Ms. Cunningham spoke of the computer lab and shared examples of the work created by consumers using the lab. They are also producing a quarterly newsletter, and personalized greeting cards with logos and websites. Ms. Cunningham also noted that one consumer who has good computer skills is being employed to instruct staff in various aspects of computer technology and assist in developing a website for the day program. She also spoke of the opportunity to expand the computer lab with digital technology funded through a grant from AT&T.

Board Member Reports:

Brad Putz- Mr. Putz spoke of attending State Council meetings in September where the Plan was amended to include additional goals for housing, employment, health, transportation, assistive technology, abuse prevention, transition to adult services, early intervention, emergency preparedness and quality assurance. Mr. Putz shared that the final draft had been approved and was forwarded to federal government for review with their response expected by October 1st 2006. He also offered for the consideration of the Board a draft brochure created by the State Council to outline the Strategic Plan to the public. Mr. Putz also spoke of an upcoming area meeting of the Self Advocacy Council on August 4th and a September 16th meeting of the Memorial Project at the Stockton Rural Cemetery.

Gary Del Nero – spoke of his participation in Stanislaus County Special Olympics soccer where he and his wife are coaches for the upcoming soccer season.

Kathy Barnes spoke of consumer services and gave an update on timely intake by VMRC for consumers and particularly Early Start consumers. VMRC in San Joaquin County has currently completed Early Start intakes on 107 of the 170 pending cases with the oldest referral date of 6/23/06. In Stanislaus County, where the intake backlog is for individuals over the age of three, 74 cases have been assigned since June with 95 cases awaiting assignment. Ms. Barnes noted that although cases are being assigned in a timelier manner, it is difficult to ascertain if these consumers are receiving needed services. Ms. Barnes also noted a recent incident that occurred at a group home where one consumer had assaulted another. She relayed concerns about the adequacy of residential services provided to autistic individuals or other individuals described as needing behavioral support is effective. She proposed that the Board include in its September meeting agenda a request that a representative from Valley Mountain Regional Center attend and provide an explanation of services for autistic/behavioral individuals. John Lundberg questioned as to remediation of the incident at the group home with Ms. Barnes responded that the safety of both individuals had been attended to, and that the incident was being investigated. She also observed that this incident was noted by Board member Kassis in the local news paper and that without his reading of the article may have gone unnoticed by the Board. Mr. Lundberg expressed concern about the risk of violence in residential settings, and Ms. Barnes brought up the systematic concern of how housemate violence is understood and responded to overall.

Kathy Barnes noted that the resource development committee is to meet in September and that the Board seat on that Committee is still vacant.

Anna Newman discussed that she is working with Mike Rolf of the ARC of Amador Calaveras to improve public transportation services in Amador County.

John Lundberg spoke of the cost of providing ADA compliance for buildings and other facilities and also of the need to combine ADA compliance while preserving the character and ambiance of the facility being modified.

Staff Report:

Advocacy Issues- Kathy Barnes announced a special education workshop scheduled for September and asked that Board members review information in the Board packet on Medicaid usage and the 10 Year Master Plan for Children and Youth in Calaveras County. Present in the audience was Karen Pekarcik the executive director of Calaveras County First 5. Ms. Barnes asked that Ms. Pekarcik provide an overview of the 10 year plan and Our Children Our Communities (OCOC). Calaveras County First 5 is a primary funding source of OCOC and gave assistance to OCOC planning team members in the development of the master plan. The 10 year master plan describes what will be needed to maximize the well being of children in the county and to develop the partnerships necessary to achieve this vision. Mr. Lundberg asked Ms. Pekarcik if VMRC is part of this effort and Ms. Pekarcik said that no one from VMRC is currently involved. Ms. Barnes asked how the Board might be of assistance. Ms. Pekarcik responded that the Board could assist by being a provider of information in regard to best practices. Ms. Pekarcik also noted that an October 13th meeting is scheduled at Kautz Winery to allow agency representatives and stake holders to discuss the proposed 10 Year Master Plan for Children and Youth in Calaveras County. Cost is \$25.00 with some scholarships available.

Ms. Barnes shared that this year has been declared as the year of the community by the California Legislature reaffirming the Lanterman Act and that this is noted in the Board website. Ms. Barnes spoke of the 19.1 million dollars available to provide support to inclusive programs in California with no clear plan or agreement on how to distribute the monies. She also outlined a plan to meet with Dale Dutton, Dick Jacobs and herself to discuss plans to develop resources necessary to promote micro-enterprise services in the 5 county areas. Ms. Barnes noted that legislative material would be provided to the Board either by mail or by e-mail depending on the Board member's preference.

LQA- Kathy Barnes asked that Board members review the LQA reporting data in the Board packet and shared that LQA reporting is current and on track.

Steve Wilensky the District 2, Calaveras County Supervisor arrived at the meeting and introductions were repeated. Mr. Wilensky shared that he has concerns about the lack of long term planning to address the priorities of citizens in Calaveras County and asked that the Board provide a report or study session to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors to describe the needs of the developmentally disabled population. He spoke of public transportation and how this system requires modification to be more responsive to the County's needs. He described efforts currently under way to provide housing for low income families. He shared with the board that bus stops were being

constructed to allow citizens a place to wait for bus service out of the elements. Mr. Wilensky spoke of these projects being part of a greater community effort to include all people with an interest in the improving the quality of life in Calaveras County. He discussed allowing transitional age youth and those who may have had trouble with the law in the past to assist in the building projects. He described the potential of incorporating Calaveras Grown (a group of Calaveras County agricultural producers) in similar projects. Ms. Barnes inquired of Mr. Wilensky how the Board might be of assistance. Mr. Wilensky responded that the Board could assist by providing information and by facilitating meetings between interested parties. He shared his phone number of 293-7907. Ms. Barnes agreed to further discussion on this plan and John Lundberg stated he would be available to assist.

Adjourn: The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.